

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

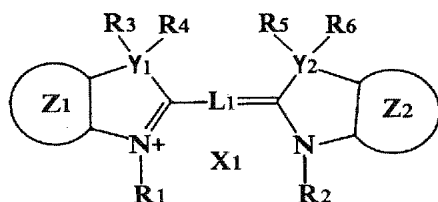
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) In an optical recording method to record information by using an optical recording medium comprising a substrate and a recording layer, said recording layer consisting essentially of a light-resistant improver and an organic dye compound as a light absorbent and being provided on said substrate, and irradiating said recording layer with a writing light to act on said organic dye compound to form a pit on said substrate, the improvement comprising irradiating a recording layer on a substrate with a laser beam with a wavelength of 405 nm, as the writing light, to form a pit on said substrate, wherein said recording layer exhibits an absorption maximum at a wavelength longer than the oscillation wavelength of said laser but absorbs said laser beam in a level sufficient to record information in said recording layer,

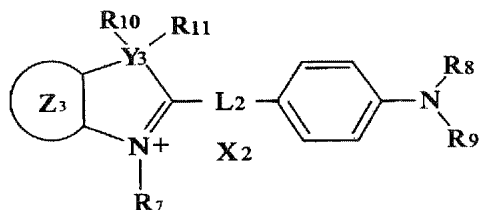
whereby said optical recording medium having a recording capacity of over 15 GB per one side when formed into a disk 12 cm in diameter, by forming minute pits with a pit/groove width of below 1 μm /pit at a track pitch of below 1 μm , said organic dye compound having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of longer than ~~450~~ 500 nm, absorbing a light with a wavelength of 390-450 nm, and being represented by any one of Formulae 1 to 3;

Formula 1:



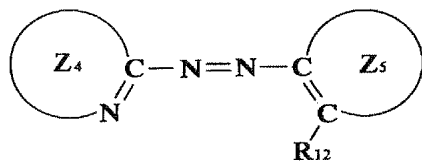
wherein in Formula 1, Z₁ and Z₂ denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic rings; Y₁ and Y₂ independently denote carbon atoms or hetero atoms; R₁ and R₂ denote optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R₃ to R₆ independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y₁ and Y₂ are hetero atoms, the whole or a part of R₃ to R₆ does not exist; L₁ denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and X₁ denotes a compatible counter-ion;

Formula 2:



wherein in Formula 2, Z₃ denotes an optionally substituted aromatic ring; Y₃ denotes a carbon atom or a hetero atom; R₇ to R₉ denote the same or different optionally substituted aliphatic hydrocarbon groups; R₁₀ and R₁₁ independently denote hydrogen atoms or compatible substituents, and when Y₃ is a hetero atom, R₁₀ and/or R₁₁ do not exist; L₂ denotes a methine chain which may have a substituent and/or a cyclic group; and X₂ denotes a compatible counter-ion; and

Formula 3:



wherein in Formula 3, Z₄ and Z₅ denote the same or different optionally substituted aromatic hydrocarbon groups or heterocycles; and R₁₂ denotes an acid base.

Claims 9 - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, which uses, in said recording layer, one or more other dye compounds sensitive to visible light and/or a compatible light-resistant improver(s) in combination.

Claims 15 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (New) the method of claim 14, wherein the one or more dye compounds have absorption maxima longer than 500 nm.